GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:134
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Education for Physically and Mentally Challenged Students
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government in respect of capacity building and education of mentally and physically challenged students;

(b) whether the Government wish to equip the institutions in this field with advanced technologies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): One of the goals of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), programme for universalising elementary education for all children from 6-14 years of age is to bridge the social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children. Under this programme, children with special needs (CWSN), including physically and mentally challenged children are also covered. SSA provides Rs. 3000/- per child per annum. Similarly, the Government is also implementing the component of Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) under the integrated Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) with an objective to enable all students with disabilities completing eight years elementary education, an opportunity to complete four years of secondary schooling (Class IX to XII).

The RTE Amendment Act, 2012 included child with disability within the disadvantaged group. It also states that child with severe disabilities and a child with multiple disabilities shall also have the right to opt for home based education.

As per District Information System for Education, 2013 -14, 25.03 lakh CWSN are enrolled in elementary schools and 2.06 lakh CWSN are covered through home-based education. During 2014-15, 2.06 lakh CWSN were given aids and appliances, 143211 CWSN were provided transport support, 132400 CWSN were provided escort support, 161144 CWSN were provided therapeutical support and surgical support was provided to 13535 CWSN. 20910 resource persons have been engaged exclusively for CWSN under SSA. Besides, 82.33% schools have been provided with barrier free access.

National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared books on curricular adaptations for children with visual impairment, hearing impairment, cognitive impairment and intellectual impairment for general teachers at primary and upper primary levels. As of now, 1.58 lakh general teachers have been trained on this material.

(b) & (c):National Institutes in this field functioning under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai; Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi; National Institute of Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad; National Institute of Visually Handicapped, Dehradun; National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata; National Institute for Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack; National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai and Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre, New Delhi. These institutes have been established for manpower development, research, clinical and therapeutic services, outreach and extension services for the persons with disabilities.

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